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Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Letter dated 9 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing with regard to the informal consultations convened by you on 5 February 2001 concerning the 2001 session of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council.

I would appreciate it if the enclosed document, which sets out the views of my country on the issues discussed on that occasion (see annex), were circulated to all delegations.

(*Signed*) Gelson **Fonseca, Jr.**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-25430 (E) 200201

Annex to the letter dated 9 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Security Council reform

The Brazilian delegation would like to set out the following views in connection with the informal consultations held on 5 February 2001 concerning the 2001 session of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council.

Brazil believes that the present session of the Working Group has taken on an added significance in the light of the overwhelming number of statements made during the Millennium Summit in favour of Security Council reform.

Much has been achieved over the seven years in which the Working Group has convened. It has provided a unique forum for an open and objective airing of views and opinions that have been diligently catalogued by the Bureau. However, Brazil believes that it now time for the Working Group to move forward.

It is appropriate that the working methods be reviewed so as to ensure that the Working Group is not paralysed into inaction by the lack of absolute unanimity on issues of such complexity. The Working Group should serve as a catalyst in helping to identify those elements of a reform package that meet the broad expectations of the international community for effective and expeditious action in a matter that is central to issues of international peace and security.

The General Assembly wisely underscored this fact by adopting resolution 53/30 of 23 November 1998, whereby it decided that only a two-thirds majority would be required on the issue of Security Council reform.

My delegation therefore looks forward to cooperating with the Bureau and other interested delegations in ensuring that the Working Group continues to play this vital role.